

County, the Salvation Army, and the Merrillville Boys and Girls Club. In addition, this past year, Nick chaired the Chapter 78 Membership Committee, which focused on finding new members who wish to participate in AHEPA functions and commit to projects that adhere to AHEPA's goals.

Brother Gianikos's commitment to AHEPA and to serving others in the community of Northwest Indiana is exceeded only by his devotion to his amazing family. He and his wonderful wife Maureen have two beloved children and five adoring grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating AHEPA and Brother Nick Gianikos as he is recognized as Ahepan of the Year for his excellent leadership, perseverance, and everlasting enthusiasm shown through his service to so many in need throughout Northwest Indiana and across the nation. For his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District, Nick is worthy of the highest praise.

A TRIBUTE TO ZACH WEIGEL

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Zach Weigel of Elma, Iowa for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Eagle Scout rank is the highest advancement rank in scouting. Only about five percent of Boy Scouts earn the Eagle Scout Award. The award is a performance based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years.

To earn the Eagle Scout rank, a Boy Scout is obligated to pass specific tests that are organized by requirements and merit badges, as well as completing an Eagle Project to benefit the community. Zach's Eagle Scout project involved refinishing a historic monument in the Elma community. In addition to this project Zach also took it upon himself to improve the community's bike trail by landscaping and erecting signage for the Old Roundhouse Trail.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by this young man and his supportive family demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent Zach and his family in the United States Congress. I know that all of my colleagues will join me in congratulating him on achieving an Eagle Scout ranking and will wish him continued success in his future education and career.

CELEBRATING TAIWAN'S 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Republic of China (Taiwan) on its monumental 100-year anniversary celebrated on October 10, 2011.

Taiwan's strong commitment to democratic ideals has made it a beacon of democracy in

Southeast Asia. Its people enjoy the ability to decide their country's future with their right to full participation in the election of their representatives.

The democratic success of Taiwan has coincided with significant economic achievements. Today, Taiwan's economy is the seventeenth largest in the world, and the United States' ninth largest trading partner. Additionally, the nation is globally recognized as a major innovator of information technology products.

This is an exciting time for the Taiwanese people, and I am honored to help them celebrate their 100th anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask Congress to recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness Month (NBCAM). Sadly, every two minutes a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer, making it the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women worldwide. I extend my prayers to the women and families affected by this disease, and my appreciation to the advocates at Susan G. Komen working tirelessly on their behalf.

The 2.5 million breast cancer survivors living in the United States today are a testament both to courage, and the necessity to promote awareness for breast cancer, following recommended screening guidelines, offering treatment to those affected, and continuing to fund ground-breaking research. Early detection affords women the best chance of fighting this disease and we must understand the importance of regular mammograms and following recommended screening guidelines.

This October, Susan G. Komen for the Cure has launched the Promise Action campaign to increase breast cancer screening rates. Today Komen is the largest source of nonprofit funds dedicated to the fight against breast cancer in the world, but the organization started with a sister's promise to end the disease her dying sister was fighting. Breast cancer touches far too many families in my community and across the nation. We are all indebted to the Komen affiliates fighting every minute of every day for a world without breast cancer.

As a husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather, I know it is essential to do all we can in Congress to ensure breast cancer research is adequately funded. This is why I have introduced legislation that would reauthorize the sale of a special-rate U.S. postage stamp, with proceeds from the stamp funding breast cancer research. In 2007, Senator DIANE FEINSTEIN and I introduced legislation that was signed into public law by the President which reauthorized the stamp through this year. The Breast Cancer stamp has been highly successful in both raising tens of millions of dollars for important research, and raising public awareness of the ongoing need to fight a disease that affects millions of American women and their families.

On behalf of my wife, Barbara, and my children, we bestow our thoughts and prayers to those women and their families suffering from

breast cancer. As we recognize October as NBCAM, we stand by all those affected by this disease. I will continue to work to raise greater awareness and promote new funding for research into breast cancer. I am hopeful that my colleagues, organizations like Komen, and families across the nation can come together to fight this disease. God bless the mothers, sisters, and daughters battling this disease, and their families for their love and support.

RECOGNIZING THE AIR COMMANDO ASSOCIATION AND THE AIR FORCE SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMUNITY FOR THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF JUNGLE JIM AND FOR ITS CONTRIBUTIONS TO OPERATIONS DESERT STORM AND ENDURING FREEDOM

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 4, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Air Commando Association and the Air Force Special Operations Community as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of Jungle Jim, the 20th anniversary of Operation Desert Storm, and the 10th anniversary of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Fifty years ago, in response to Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's call to spread communism via "wars of liberation," the United States Air Force founded the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron (CCTS) at Hurlbert Field, Florida. The squadron's Airmen—hand-picked and rigorously screened—formed the backbone of a counter-guerrilla force that would eventually grow into the Air Force Special Operations Command (AFSOC). The 4400th CCTS, nicknamed "Jungle Jim," had a dual focus on training foreign air forces in counter-insurgency operations, and executing combat missions against guerrilla forces in Vietnam and other nations fighting communist insurgencies. Today, the Air Commandos based at Hurlbert Field remember Jungle Jim as the genesis of the missions they continue to execute.

By the time Operation Desert Storm began in August 1990, AFSOC had been formally established. Air Commandos from AFSOC performed direct action missions, combat search and rescue, infiltration, exfiltration, air base ground defense, air interdiction, special reconnaissance, close air support, psychological operations and helicopter air refueling. Each of these unique capabilities contributed to the stunning victory over Saddam Hussein's forces, as the coalition of nations drove the Iraqi military out of Kuwait. The dramatic successes of our Air Commandos helped further cement AFSOC's role as a premier special operations organization.

When the United States was attacked on September 11, 2001, special operations forces gained a new prominence in efforts to defend our nation. By the end of September 2001, AFSOC had deployed forces to pave the way for Operation Enduring Freedom, enabling the Northern Alliance to drive out Taliban and Al Qaeda forces who were responsible for the heinous attacks on our homeland. To this day, AFSOC maintains forces forward-deployed in defense of our nation.